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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 4:00 P.M. EDT)

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Saigon

2. Prime Minister Ky has pledged government support for the celebration next Friday of the birthday of Buddha, according to a press report. In an apparent move to disarm Buddhist opposition, Ky declared that the birthday should be celebrated according "to the principals of freedom of religion." The defense ministry has ordered all army units to observe the birthday solemnly. About 12 million of South Vietnam's 15 million people are at least nominally Buddhists. Some antigovernment groups, however, have already announced the suspension of celebrations as a protest against the Thieu-Ky administration.

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Other

3. There have been no further reports on the situation in Hue and Da Nang and both cities are presumed to be quiet.

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